



## **Services Available to Workers under the Trade Act Programs As Authorized by the Trade Reform Act of 2002 (TAA)**

Workers whose employment is adversely affected by increased imports or shifts in production to certain countries may apply for services under TAA, established under The Trade Act of 1974. The Trade Act program is available to assist individuals who have become unemployed as a result of increased imports from, or shifts in production to, foreign countries. The goal of the Trade Act Programs is to help trade-affected workers return to suitable employment as quickly as possible.

### **Services Provided Under TAA:**

In addition to standard services such as job placement assistance and counseling, workers may be eligible for:

Job Search Allowance to cover expenses incurred in seeking employment outside the worker's normal commuting area. Job Search Allowance can cover up to 90% of necessary transportation and living allowance (maximum of \$1,250) while searching for employment.

Relocation Allowance of 90% of the reasonable and necessary expenses of moving the worker, his/her family and household goods if he or she is successful in obtaining suitable employment outside the normal commuting area. Additionally, workers can receive a stipend of up to \$1,250 to help get settled.

Training: including classroom, on-the-job, vocational or technical training. Training covers the cost of tuition, books and supplies and may be up to 104 weeks in duration, with the provision of up to 26 additional weeks if remediation is required. The new legislation also allows for employer-based customized training. Transportation allowances may be available under certain circumstances.

NOTE: Provisions in the Trade Reform Act require that in order to receive income support (TRA) workers must be enrolled in approved **training within 16 weeks of the qualifying separation -or if already laid off, within 8 weeks of the date of the certification.**

Income Support (Trade Readjustment Allowance [TRA]) for up to 78 weeks after a worker has exhausted unemployment compensation (usually 26 weeks) and when the worker is enrolled in full time training. Under certain circumstances workers may be waived from the training requirement.

\*NOTE: Provisions in the Trade Reform Act require that in order to receive **income support (TRA)** workers must be enrolled in approved training or waived from training within **16 weeks of the qualifying separation -or if already laid off, within 8 weeks of the date of the certification.**

Health Insurance Tax Credit (HITC). Eligible workers may receive a tax credit at 65% of the amount paid for qualifying coverage under certain qualified health insurance.

NOTE: Provisions in the Trade Reform Act require that in order to receive the **Health Insurance Tax Credit**, workers must be TRA eligible, i.e., enrolled in approved training or waived from training within **16 weeks of the qualifying separation -or if already laid off, within 8 weeks of the date of the certification.**

Trade Act program services are often closely coordinated with other federal programs and services in

order to maximize services and leverage funds. The Department of Workforce Development has TAA coordinators in each office around the state to assist workers on a one-on-one basis.